

**A CLARIFICATION OF THE AUTHORSHIP OF SOME NAMES IN  
*LACCOBIUS* ERICHSON (COLEOPTERA: HYDROPHILIDAE)**

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In 1971, B. S. Cheary completed his studies and received the Ph.D. degree for a revision of the genus *Laccobius* Erichson of the New World. At approximately this same time (1970), R. B. Willson was completing a master's thesis on the Hydrophilidae of Michigan, which included a draft of two new species of *Laccobius*. At about this same time (1971), S. E. Malcolm was completing a paper on the Water Beetles of Maine. Both Cheary's and Malcolm's papers included Willson's species (Cheary 2 sp., Malcolm 1 sp.), and Malcolm's paper included a species of Cheary's.

Both Cheary and Malcolm assumed that Willson's paper would appear first, Cheary's second, and then Malcolm's. Cheary's paper was submitted to the University of California Press, where delays, including the death of Editor D. D. Jensen and subsequent editor changes, have contributed to a situation where the paper was never published in this series. Willson's paper has likewise never appeared. Malcolm's paper appeared in late 1971 (Sept.-Nov.). In 1979 Malcolm published a paper which attempted to clarify the status of the authorship of *L. reflexipenis* (originally Cheary) and *L. spangleri* (originally Willson). His assessment, after discussion with Cheary and others, was that both species should be credited to Malcolm. Accordingly, the 1979 paper contained type designations and amplified descriptions. At about this time, Cheary approached Hardy for assistance with the publication of his (Cheary's) thesis. It was Hardy's assumption that the form of Cheary's thesis at the time the degree was awarded constituted valid scientific publication. Under Section III, Article 8 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, a publication to be regarded as valid must:

- “(1) be reproduced in ink on paper by some method that assures numerous identical copies;  
 (2) be issued for the purpose of scientific, public, permanent record;  
 (3) be obtainable by purchase or free distribution; and  
 (4) not be reproduced or distributed by a forbidden method [Art. 9].”

At the completion of the degree work, Cheary had 50 copies of his thesis reproduced by offset press and bound in a formal soft-cover binding, by a local print-shop. They appeared, and are dated, June 1971. These copies were sent free to cooperators and others. Some were sent upon request. At present only 3–4 copies remain.

Cheary's thesis, then, meets all criteria for publication, as outlined above. This opinion has been concurred in by C. Sabrosky, who has had informal discussions with other members of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature on Cheary's paper. This then means that the author of *reflexipenis* is indeed Cheary, and Malcolm's *reflexipenis* should be considered a homonymous synonym. Likewise, Malcolm's (originally Willson's) *spangleri* should be credited to Cheary. Cheary had examined Willson's type series in their entirety, and the types, deposited in the Michigan State University Collection, should stand as the types of Cheary's species.

The synonymies should stand as follows:

*Laccobius arenarius* Cheary 1971

(*Laccobius arenarius* Willson 1970:45, ms. name.)

“*Laccobius arenarius* Willson,” Cheary 1971:93.

*Laccobius spangleri* Cheary 1971

(*Laccobius spangleri* Willson 1970:40, ms. name.)

“*Laccobius spangleri* Willson” Cheary 1971:93; Malcolm 1971:40.

*Laccobius spangleri* Malcolm 1979:62. **NEW SYNONYM.**

*Laccobius reflexipenis* Cheary 1971

*Laccobius reflexipenis* Cheary 1971:101.

“*Laccobius reflexipenis* Cheary” Malcolm 1971:40.

*Laccobius reflexipenis* Malcolm 1979:59. **NEW SYNONYM.**

In the paper by Cheary, then, these names were described, and should be considered valid as of 1971:

*Laccobius carri pallidus* n. ssp. Cheary 1971:90

*L. arenarius* Cheary 1971:93.

*L. spangleri* Cheary 1971:93

- L. piceus australis* n. ssp. Cheary 1971:98.  
*L. tridentipenis* Cheary 1971:99.  
*L. bruesi* Cheary 1971:100.  
*L. reflexipenis* Cheary 1971:101.  
*L. oregonensis* Cheary 1971:102.  
*L. leechi* Cheary 1971:104.  
*L. hardyi* Cheary 1971:105.  
*L. teneralis* Cheary 1971:107.  
*L. borealis* Cheary 1971:110.  
*L. magnus* Cheary 1971:114.  
*L. occidentalis* Cheary 1971:116.  
*L. chandleri* Cheary 1971:119.

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